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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:
O God, Who has had compassion on our darkness and sent forth Your own light upon our conscience to make right judgments, grant us the joy of knowing the closeness of Your love.

May all our words and actions this day be infused with the creative spirit of freedom and bring forth personal integrity, as well as justice, and that we all will join together in serving Your people of this Nation with true goodness.

May true freedom and justice reign in our hearts and become contagious in our world, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HOLDEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE TO COUNT ELECTORAL VOTES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, 111th Congress, the Chair appoints as tellers on the part of the House to count the electoral votes:

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) and

The gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minutes on each side of the aisle.

WAKE UP, AMERICA

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Wake up, America. We have trillions for a war machine and the banks, while our government stands by and sniffs at the slaughter of innocents in Gaza, where Israel is blocking aid for wounded Palestinians.

Here's today's Washington Post. It says, The International Committee of the Red Cross said Thursday that it found at least 15 bodies and several children, emaciated but alive, in a row of shattered houses in the Gaza Strip and accused the Israeli military of preventing ambulances from reaching the site for 4 days.

Twelve corpses lying on mattresses in one home, along with four young children lying next to their dead mothers. That's a quote.

Today, U.S. tax dollars, U.S. jets and U.S. helicopters provided to Israel are enabling the slaughter in Gaza. The administration enables Israel to press forward with the attack against defenseless civilians, blocks efforts at promoting a cease-fire at the U.N., and refuses to make Israel comply with conditions that armed shipments not be used for aggression.

Israel is going to receive \$30 billion in a 10-year period for military assistance, without having to abide by any humanitarian principles, international laws or standards of basic human decency.

Wake up, America.

THE FACTS ABOUT OUR ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we have been dealing with economic challenges for several months. Last fall it was called a bailout. Now it's being called a stimulus or sometimes an economic recovery plan. But I think it's important that we talk about the facts of what we're discussing.

The stimulus being discussed now could range from \$800 billion to more than \$1.3 trillion. This will likely be the largest single spending bill in history. Now, what will this do to our deficit which we heard so much about for the 2 years before the Democrats took power?

Nonpartisan budget experts are now predicting a deficit for 2009 of almost \$1.3 trillion, triple the current year's deficit. That would equal 9 percent of GDP, which is a 50 percent increase over the World War II record of 6 percent. We may be paying a premium rate to foreign investors like China to borrow this kind of money. And what's going to be included in that package? \$350,000 for a fitness center, \$4.5 million to bottle water with recyclable bottles.

Mr. Speaker, we need more of the facts, not just words.

MONUMENT TO PRESIDENT BUSH

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. In his last year, George Bush has constructed a monument to his Presidency that will last for generations to come. He not only doubled our national debt in 8 short years; as he goes out the door, he's

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H73